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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION DEA-11

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 SMS-01 HA-05 EA-10 /105 W  
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P 130402Z FEB 80 ZOK RUEHSD 0658W 0481358

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY-600

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL PESHAWAR 0053

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/11/86 (ARCHARD, D.G.) OR-M

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, MOPS, AF, PK

SUBJECT: (C) SOVIETS IN BADAKHSHAN

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACCORDING TO TWO SEPARATE SOURCES HERE, SOVIET ARMY UNITS HAVE ENTERED AFGHANISTAN'S BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE AT ESKASHIM ON THE OKUS RIVER. TOWN IS AT THE BASE OF THE WAKHAN CORRIDOR "THUMB". SOVIET TROOPS ARE SAID TO HAVE PUSHED SOUTH DOWN ROAD TO ZEDAK, THEN TURNED TOWARD BAHRAK, WHERE THEY ENCOUNTERED STIFF RESISTANCE FROM NATIONALIST FORCES. SOVIET ANTICIPATED GOAL IS PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF FAIZABAD.

3. REPORTEDLY, TROOPS CROSSED OKUS ON TEMPORARY BRIDGE WHICH WILL NOT SUPPORT ARMORED VEHICLES. ONE SOURCE THINKS ESKASHIM WAS SEIZED BECAUSE IT CONTROLS TRAFFIC THROUGH WAKHAN CORRIDOR. THIS THESES SUPPOSES THAT CHINESE ARE RUNNING GUNS AND/OR MEN THROUGH THE WAKHAN. I HAVE YET TO MEET AN INFORMED OBSERVER HERE, HOWEVER, WHO THINKS CHINESE ARE DOING SO.

ARCHARD

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